

CLAIMS

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Claim 1 - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said custom rule system comprising in combination:

a processor,

a memory and a display both operatively coupled to said processor;

a plurality of rule steps stored within said memory;

means for graphically depicting said plurality of rule steps stored within said memory as an arrangement on said display;

means for selecting at least one of said graphically depicted rule steps from said arrangement for visually creating a custom rule on said display.

Claim 2 - The system of claim 1 wherein said memory is a database wherein said rule steps are individually stored as executable code.

Claim 3 - The system of claim 2 wherein said created custom rule is employed for decision making in an expert system by accessing said executable code for each said rule step that is both graphically depicted and selected for visually creating said custom rule on said display.

Claim 4 - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

a database comprised of a multiplicity of rule steps, each said rule step having specific executable code associated therewith;

a computer operatively coupled to said database and including a display for graphically depicting said rule steps in an array and for providing a graphical window;

means for interacting with said array to select and place said graphically depicted rule steps from said array to said graphical window for graphical display;

means for interconnecting said graphically displayed rule steps within said graphical window for creating a custom rule.

Claim 5 - The system of claim 4 further including a reference stored within said database for referencing said specific executable code associated with each rule step that is graphically displayed within said graphical window.

Claim 6 - The system of claim 5 further including a processing means for processing said created custom rule by processing said referenced executable code.

Claim 7 - The system of claim 6 further including means for providing a decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule.

Claim 8 - The system of claim 7 further including means for routing said decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule to appropriate personal.

Claim 9 - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps, each said graphically depicted rule step having assembled code associated therewith and stored within a database;

means for individually selecting said graphically depicted rules steps from said arrangement and disposing said selected rules in a graphical window such that said selected rules are arranged in a substantially columnar format;

means for graphically interconnecting said selected rule steps disposed in said graphical window, and

means for storing said graphically interconnected selected rule steps disposed in said graphical window as a custom rule to be employed for decision making in an expert system.

Claim 10- A custom rule system, comprising in combination:

a database;

a plurality of rule steps stored within said database;

a plurality of tables stored within said database, each of said plurality of tables having at least one record including at least one field;

a plurality of step references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of step references associated with at least one of said rule steps stored within said database;

a plurality of rule references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of rule references associated with at least one of said rule step references stored within said database, and

wherein all of the step references that are associated with the same rule reference define each individual rule step that is included in an individual, user created custom rule.

Claim 11 - A custom rule system, comprising in combination:

a database;
a plurality of rule steps stored within said database as executable code;
a plurality of tables stored within said database, each having at least one record containing fields;
a plurality of said fields including step references to individual rule steps stored within said database for defining a custom rule.

Claim 12 - The rule based system of claim 11 further including an extraction module for extracting information engendered from sensors and a processor operatively coupled to said extraction module and said database for processing said extracted information according to said defined custom rule.

Claim 13 - A custom rule system for creating custom rules, said system comprising in combination:

individual rule steps stored within a database coupled to a computer;
means for graphically depicting said rules steps on a display of said computer;
means for selecting and interconnecting a plurality of said graphically depicted rule steps for visually forming a custom rule in a graphical window of said display.

Claim 14 - A custom rule system for creating custom rules on a computer having a display, said system comprising in combination:

an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps displayed on said display and having inputs, outputs, or both inputs and outputs;

means for connecting outputs of said graphically depicted rule steps to inputs of said graphically depicted rule steps for visually creating a custom rule.

Claim 15 - A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:

storing individual rule steps comprised of executable code within a database coupled to a computer;

depicting said rules steps on a display of said computer as a graphical arrangement of icons;

creating a custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons.

Claim 16 - The method of claim 15 wherein the step of creating said custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons further includes the steps of selecting and placing a plurality of said icons from said arrangement to a graphical window on said display.

Claim 17 - The method of claim 16 wherein the step of creating said custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons further includes the step of interconnecting said icons placed within said graphical window.

Claim 18 - A method for creating custom rules, the steps including:

selecting an asset for a custom rule;

defining input value steps to be used in the custom rule; each said input value step including at least one output;

depicting said input value steps in a graphical window of a graphical user interface of a computer;

depicting a matrix of graphically depicted rule steps on said graphical user interface, each said graphically depicted rule step having assembled rule step code associated therewith and stored within a database coupled to said computer;

selecting a result step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said result step into said graphical window, said result step including at least one input;

defining a result that will be created when an input to said selected result step is true;

selecting at least one operation step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said at least one operation step into said graphical window at a location interposed between said input value steps and said result step, said at least one operation step having at least one input and at least one output;

connecting said at least one output of each of said input value steps to said at least one input of said operation step, and

connecting said at least one output of said operation step to said at least one input of said result step for creating a custom rule.

Claim 19 - A custom rule system, comprising in combination:

a database;

a multiplicity of text identifier numbers stored within said database;

means for storing a table comprised of text associated with said multiplicity of text identifier numbers;

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